

## Book and Tract Work.

J. D. MOFADEN, - - EDITOR AND MANAGER.

Recently a gentleman said: "It is just this way. I read of a plan for work and see that it is a good thing if carried out, and say: If others would give a dollar my dollar would be ready, but they will not respond and I keep my dollar." That is about the way the work runs oftentimes, and judging from the dollars that are not coming to the tract cause, many must have the above opinion. Now such should not be the case. We all know the cause is a good one, and one that needs development, and means are required to do the work.

Another thing, we are not asking for money for some work about which there is an uncertainty. We know just what can be done, and we know how to do it. The House has the facilities, it can be well done. The money is an investment that will pay good dividends, moral and financial. Tracts and pamphlets are called for, and some of them, if once launched, will keep themselves afloat. Will you not help launch them?

Three hundred and sixty-four persons out of thousands. What are these among so many? A small number, but if we had them with a dollar each, the Lord is ready to bless, and the press can multiply, and more than five thousand can be fed, but we lack the few loaves and fishes. Who will supply them? Now friends, will you not come to the help of the Lord, against the mighty. I mean YOU, the reader of this article.

The C. E. Committee on Literature of the Carleton church, have decided to have an evening devoted to this subject. I have promised to talk on the subject; others have something to say. A collection will be taken for the tract work and sent to Bro. Gnagey. After the work is over, I will report the results. In the mean time try it for yourself. I am sure you will find it most pleasant, instructive, and helpful.

When you come to examine the work of the Brethren church in this respect there is a most fruitful field to explore. How few members of other churches know what we have done in this respect. Review the press as used by the church in her early days, and the community would not only be instructed, but there would be some prestige for the church that rightly belongs to us, and which we ought to be

ready to claim and proclaim. Let us devote a Sunday to church literature.

Some days ago I was traveling in Kansas. A railroad man introduced me to a gentleman who was a minister in the River Brethren church. We had a very pleasant conversation, during which I found, this minister was traveling to Iowa, to visit some people who call themselves "the sent of God." He became acquainted with them through a little tract which he gave me. He was visiting them to talk religion and as he said "to see if he could get nearer God." He was after truth wherever found. We do not know who we influence when we scatter these leaves from the tree of life.

Brother S. J. Harrison has sent us some good suggestions which will be referred to later. We would be glad to have them from every preacher in the church. You have thoughts upon the subject. Why not let us have them?

Finally brothers and sisters, join that three hundred and sixty-five procession.

### THE INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY-SCHOOL CONVENTION.

The eighth International Triennial Sunday-school Convention for the United States and British America was held in Boston last week, and proved to be fully equal in interest and value to any of the others that have been held. Some conception of the growth of the movement will be gained from a summary of the statistics presented at the different conventions. In 1875 the total of teachers and scholars was 6,850,000; in 1878, 7,730,000; in 1881, 8,150,000; in 1884, 9,150,000; in 1887, 9,659,000; in 1890, 10,350,000; in 1893, 11,700,000, and now at Boston in 1896 there is reported a total of 142,089 Sunday-schools, with 1,476,369 teachers and 11,556,806 scholars, making a total of teachers and scholars of 13,033,175. There were the usual reports from the different committees having to do with the preparation of the lessons, the organization of schools etc. There were also stirring speeches by prominent Sunday-school workers, and on every hand it was manifest that the Sunday-school work is growing not merely in interest, but in effective work.

The report of the Executive Committee recommended the adoption of a home class department; the increase of the amount pledged by States, Provinces and Territories so as to enlarge the work; the appointment of a special finance commit-

tee, of a field superintendent among colored people and a special committee for that work; expressed a strong preference for one lesson only for the whole school, with a suggestion to the Lesson Committee as to an optional course for primary classes if the committee decides to try the plan; approved the recommendation of the London Sunday-school Union that the second Sunday in October be named as a day of universal prayer for Sunday-schools, the proposition to send a field Sunday-school worker to Japan if the necessary funds are secured, and the plan proposed by the London Sunday-school Union that the World's Third Sunday-school Convention be held in or near London, England, during the first full week in July, 1899. The report also dwelt upon the great encouragement from the work among the colored people of the South. It urged that some plan be adopted to secure uniformity in the reports, and pressed for more complete organization in several States and Provinces, while as yet the organization is but partial. It dwelt upon the necessity that the teachers should have a course of study and training and urged that in the effort to increase membership of the Sunday-school and improve the work of the teachers it must not be forgotten that the great work is to aid in forming the character of the scholars. A plan was recommended for dividing the work into districts with permanent agents employed in the work; also to extend it so as to include all of North America, Central America and the West Indies, and especially that the workers in Mexico and Cuba should be aided. In Mexico great progress has been made, and there is every encouragement for additional labor. For the work as thus increased it is inevitable that there should be increased expenditure, and the report recommended the securing of \$25,000 per annum for the next three years. One of the most important actions of the convention was the selection of the new International Lesson Committee to succeed the present committee, which goes out of office in 1899, and will select the lessons to be studied during the closing year of this century and the first five years of the next. The list, as finally made out and selected, was as follows: Warren Randolph, D. D., Bap.; Mr. B. F. Jacobs, Bap.; A. F. Schaufliker, D. D., Pres.; A. E. Dunning, D. D., Cong.; E. B. Kephart, D. D., U. B.; Mr. John R. Pepper, M. E.; Prof. John R. Sampey, D. D., Bap.; Mosheim Rhodes, D. D., Luth.; John Potts, D. D., M. E.; J. S. Stahr, D. D., Ref.; Prof. J. I. D. Hinds, Ph. D., Pres.; B. B. Tyler, D. D., Dis.; H. W. Warren, D. D., M. E.; Prof. W. W. Moore, D. D., Pres.; E. I. Rexford, B. A., P. E.—Independent.